Dr. T. W. Hunt states :—

"It cannot be said that diseases of any kind are habitually prevalent as compared with places reputed healthy. In the summer prevail diarrhœa and dysentery, chiefly among the children. In cold seasons, coughs, bronchitis, and influenza sometimes prevail, but seldom to any abnormal degree. Typhus fever is unknown, while fever of a low or typhoid type is now and then met with, but such cases have been exceedingly rare in my practice."

With regard to the marshy valleys which are found on the Islands, Dr. Park Tucker writes :—

"I have never known any baneful influence from the marshes during epidemics of yellow fever, or any other disease, and, as a further proof of their being innocuous, marsh or intermittent fever, or, as it is sometimes called, 'fever and ague,' is unknown on these Islands, which would not be the case if otherwise. And moreover, persons who have contracted fever and ague abroad often resort to this climate as a restorative. The trees and plants not being deciduous, but little vegetable decomposition exists."

From these facts we would conclude that for patients far gone in consumption or suffering from gastric and intestinal disorders, Bermuda would be inappropriate ; while for rheumatisms, nervous affections, malarious diseases, and exhaustion from overwork, its climate from November until June would prove beneficial. The weather is rarely sufficiently inclement to prevent out-door exercise, and those who have not strength enough for walking will find a hundred and fifty miles of excellent carriage roads among the cedar groves and plantations for which the Islands are famous. The temptation to life in the open air is further increased by the opportunities which the numerous sounds and harbours afford for rowing, sailing, and fishing. The colony was settled about the same time as Virginia, so that no hardships need be apprehended. In fact, there is a very good hotel at Hamilton, the capital, which relies for its patronage mostly on invalids from the United States. As it now has regular steam communication fortnightly with New York, Bermuda can hardly fail, as its advantages become better known, to prove a favourite sanitarium.

H. C. L.

Art. XXXIX.—*The Medical Department of the United States Army*, from 1775 to 1873. 8vo. pp. 314. Washington, D. C.: Surgeon-General's Office, 1873.

These "Historical Notes," as they are designated in the sub-title, have been compiled, under the direction of the Surgeon-General, by Harvey E. Brown, Asst. Surg. U. S. Army. The order of time is followed, and the division into Parts is founded on the different wars and the occurrence of important reorganizations. Nearly every battle and campaign in our history is referred to from a professional stand-point. The labours and trials of the army surgeons, the obstacles in the way of their usefulness, and the efforts made to remove them, are exhibited by historic narrative, by official correspondence, by general orders, and by laws passed or proposed Changes in the rank, pay, and status of medical officers are carefully noticed. An interesting feature of the work is brief biographical notes concerning most of the Revolutionary surgeons and the more distinguished of their successors.

The reorganization of 1818 may be considered the foundation of our modern American army medical system. Dr. Joseph Lovell was then appointed its head, under the title of Surgeon-General. This same designation, however, had been employed in Revolutionary times, when it meant simply that its bearer was a surgeon in charge of a General Hospital.[1]

As the character of the work before us renders it almost impossible to give an abstract of its contents, except at great length, we shall limit ourselves to culling a few facts of interest, without much regard to connection.

In the fall of 1776, troops near New York were utterly destitute of cinchona, so that snakeroot, centaury, and dogwood-bark were prescribed in its stead as antiperiodics. The success of this treatment is not stated.

In a little work published in 1776, by Dr. John Jones, Prof. of Surgery in King's College, New York, intended and used as a handbook for army use, modern views as to the bad influences of great hospitals are anticipated. Rude buildings, open to the rafters, and tents, are preferred. Dr. James Tilton, when placed in charge of a hospital at Trenton, at about the same time, removed the patients from private houses and tents, and constructed large numbers of log huts with crevices left open. The floors were earth, baked. The fire-place was in the centre, and the only chimney a hole in the ridge-roof. The good results obtained led, we are told, to a general adoption of the plan.

In a report following the battle of Plattsburgh, in 1814, Hospital-Surgeon Mann states that the American medical officers proved themselves superior to their British brethren—captured and allowed to treat prisoners—in professional skill. Experience in this war demonstrated the inadequacy of existing medical arrangements, and led to the changes of 1818.

In 1827 occurred the first recorded instance of an army medical officer being court-martialed for malpractice. Some informality in the constitution of the court gave the President an excuse for disapproving the sentence of dismissal.

Until 1834, not only was the pay of medical officers very inadequate, but also not increased with length of service, the assistant of twenty years' standing getting no more than the newest appointee; then, however, a law was passed allowing a slight increase after five and ten years' service.

The first reported case of cholera, in 1832, in the United States, occurred in an army transport on Lake Erie. The patient died after a few hours' illness. It was afterwards discovered that the boat had formerly carried Canadian emigrants, among whom the disease had already appeared. The malady prevailed quite seriously among the troops on the Canadian frontier.

In 1836 Dr. Lovell died, universally lamented. He was loved and honoured in the army, and known in the profession as a most zealous upholder of the dignity of his calling. Through his influence was abolished the whiskey-ration in the army. Much political intrigue was set in motion to give the position then vacated to candidates from civil life; but better counsels prevailed, and the senior surgeon, Thomas Lawson, was appointed.

We are reminded that the famous experiments on digestion made upon Alexis St. Martin, who survived a wound which established a permanent opening into the stomach through the abdominal walls, were the work of an army surgeon, Dr. Wm. Beaumont.

The first publication of statistics made by the medical department was in 1839. These covered twenty years, and gave much information upon climate, barrack construction, hospitals, prevalent diseases, etc.

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[1] John Warren, thus styled on the title-page of his Life, noticed in the present number of this Journal, was only one of a dozen holding the same title at one time.

We notice, during the Mexican war, complaint made of the conduct of green troops, precisely similar to that met with at the beginning of the War of the Rebellion. The new volunteers would throw away clothing on the march; could not be induced to keep clean, nor to cook their food properly.

Surgeon-General Lawson held office till 1861, when, after forty-eight years' service, he died. He was a man of great vigour, industry, and energy. Somewhat exacting and combative, he was highly respected, though not beloved like Dr. Lovell. He was succeeded, in the order of promotion, by Surgeon C. A. Finley, who, however, very soon was retired at his own request. It is needless to mention the subsequent incumbents, as the facts are fresh in all memories.

We are glad to see just praise awarded to the heroic Stanton for settling and establishing the rights of medical officers of hospitals, and giving them full control of transports once assigned them. Dr. Hammond, too, is credited with the idea of collecting, on a grand scale, the medical and surgical statistics of the war, and forming a museum. The already extraordinary size and value of the collection of objects, anatomical, pathological, and military, is modestly stated. Brief mention is also made of the great library which has accumulated in the last twelve years. We are reminded of the extensive and important applications of photography, made in the cause of science, during the same period. A chemical laboratory, in connection with the museum and library, is also mentioned as of great use in analyzing water, ascertaining quality of food and drugs, detecting adulterations, and pursuing such scientific researches as may promote the health of troops. Several very able and valuable reports upon medical, surgical, and scientific subjects have been published since 1865. The first instalment of a great and noble work—a Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion—has already been noticed in this Journal.

An appendix contains lists, as full and accurate as possible, of medical officers from the beginning.

Taken as a whole, the work is an important and valuable one, and appears to have been carefully compiled. B. L. R.

ART. XL.—*Pharmacopœa Germanica. The German Pharmacopœia.* Translated by C. L. LOCHMAN. With an appendix explanatory of the French Metrical System, and tables of weights and measures, etc. 12mo. pp. 400. Philadelphia: David D. Elder & Co., 1873.

To prepare the way for a national pharmacopœia, the Pharmaceutical Societies of North and South Germany, in the year 1867, prepared a *Pharmacopœa Germaniæ* which was submitted to the governments of the different German States for inspection and adoption. In 1869 a committee of physicians and pharmacists was convoked to prepare a pharmacopœia for the North German Confederation, but the labours having been interrupted by the war of 1870, a new committee was appointed in the following year, including representatives from South Germany, and the present pharmacopœia became the pharmaceutical law book November 1st, 1872.

The arrangement is alphabetical, and all drugs and preparations being arranged in *one* alphabet, the consultation of the pharmacopœia is easier and more convenient than that of the United States, in which three alphabets have